

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 L-03 SS-15 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4272

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE OMMITTED PARA 4)

STATE FOR HA

AID FOR AFR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM EAID BC

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: PLEA FOR ACTION ON SECTION 116E

REF: A) 77 GABORONE 3067 B) GABORONE 0812

1. SUMMARY. ADDRESSEES' SPECIAL ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE
REF B PROPOSAL TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE BY INSTITUTIONALIZING
HUMAN RIGHTS IN BOTSWANA IN ACCORDANCE WITH FAA SECTION 116E.
REF A OUTLINED A HALF-DOZEN SUGGESTIONS FOR SECTION 116
PROJECTS IN BOTSWANA. WE HAVE HAD NO RESPONSE OR REACTION TO
THOSE SUGGESTIONS AND NO REASONS FOR APPARENT IMPASSE AND
INACTION.

BECAUSE IMPORTANT POLICY OBJECTIVES ARE INVOLVED (AND DESPITE
ABSENCE OF GUIDELINES OR COMMENT), WE HAVE REFINED AND FURTHER
DEVELOPED ONE OF THE EARLIER PROPOSALS (REF B) WITH BEST
PROSPECT OF WIDE PUBLIC PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT AND WITHIN
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SECTION 116 GUIDELINES. END SUMMARY.

2. AS SEEN FROM FIELD PERSPECTIVE THE SITUATION IS AS
FOLLOWS:

A) BY AMENDMENT TO FAA, CONGRESS LAST YEAR PROVIDED
\$750 THOUSAND TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE POSITIVE HUMAN

RIGHTS BEHAVIOR.

B) BECAUSE OF BOTSWANA'S EXCELLENT HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD AND THE CLOSE IDENTITY OF US AND GOB POLICIES AND INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ESPECIALLY IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD, WE WARMLY WELCOMED THIS CONGRESSIONAL ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO ADVANCE OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES (1) BY STRENGTHENING PRESIDENT KHAMA'S POSITION AND GOB EXAMPLE, AND (2) THEREBY ENCOURAGING OTHER NATIONS IN THE AREA TO IMPROVE THEIR HIGHLY VULNERABLE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD.

C) HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNDER ATTACK IN BOTSWANA, E.G., AS A RESULT OF GUERRILLA ACTIONS ON BOTSWANA'S BORDERS, THE PROSPECT OF GROWING RACIAL UNREST IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE INFLUX OF REFUGEES, ALL OF WHICH MAKE TIMELY ANY OF THE PROPOSED ACTIONS TO ENCOURAGE HUMAN RIGHTS;

D) WE KNOW PRESIDENT KHAMA DESIRES TO ENHANCE AND INSTITUTIONALIZE THE GOB'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND A GESTURE FROM US WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

3. THE TERMS OF SECTION 116, THEREFORE, APPEARED TO US AS AN EXCELLENT MEANS OF PROMOTING NOT ONLY HUMAN RIGHTS BUT THE VERY PRINCIPLES THAT UNDERLIE US POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THIS AREA, E.G., MAJORITY RULE, ONE MAN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONE VOTE, NON-RACIALISM. GIVEN THE DESIRABILITY AND IMPORTANCE OF THESE OBJECTIVES, IT HAS BEEN PUZZLING AND DISTRESSING TO HAVE NEITHER RESPONSE NOR REACTION SINCE OUR DECEMBER 6 CABLE (REF A). IT WAS ALL THE MORE DISCOURAGING SINCE INFORMAL SOUNDINGS WITH CONGRESS REVEALED THAT THE PROJECTS WE PROPOSED WERE IN LINE WITH CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.

4. WHILE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE NOT CONDUCIVE TO GOB GRANTING THE SAME HIGH PRIORITY AS BEFORE TO STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS, REF B IS EVIDENCE OF OUR DESIRE TO PROCEED PROMPTLY AND BELIEF THAT THIS REMAINS A HIGH POLICY PRIORITY IN BOTH REGIONAL AND COUNTRY CONTEXT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY AND FAVORABLE RESPONSE. WE WOULD ALSO FIND MOST USEFUL A SUMMARY OF WHAT HAS BEEN DONE ELSEWHERE TO IMPLEMENT SECTION 116E TO GUIDE US IN DEVELOPING FURTHER FOLLOW-UP ACTION PROPOSALS.
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